

BA-2146

1870

Union Bethel A.M.E. Church  
8502 Liberty Road  
Randallstown

This two story church is a plain rectangular frame building covered with brown wood shingles. Four bays deep along the sides, the church has a gable roof, and probably a stone foundation. It is set on a hillside near a cemetery. A much newer brick church has been built directly on Liberty Road. The old church is in good to fair condition, and is shown on the 1877 Hopkins Atlas (in the Rockdale inset map) as "Col. M.E. Ch." Old cornerstones set into the new church read 1870 and 1880. Sidney's 1850 map showed "Colored Methodist Ho." here. In the rear is St. Thomas Cemetery.

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-2146**

**Union Bethel A.M.E. Church Cemetery**

**8502 Liberty Road**

**Randallstown, Baltimore County**

**Circa 1870**

**Private**

Organized prior to 1880, the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church and Cemetery is located near Randallstown in the Second District in Baltimore County. Over the course of the early 19th century, the community of Randallstown grew from the crossroads community established by John and Christopher Randall in the first half of the 18th century into a small residential and commercial center by 1850. Successful completion of the Baltimore and Liberty Turnpike in the mid-1860s resulted in a much faster trip to Baltimore from Randallstown and other towns to the west. By the late 1870s, the once modest community of Randallstown grew to nearly twice its size of thirty years earlier. In addition to the residential and commercial structures that were located along the turnpike, there were several houses accessed by unimproved roads. The 1915 county atlas indicates that the town's population had increased through the last twenty years of the 19th century and the first 15 of the 20th. However, the town only grew in its residential status and Randallstown did not, however, grow as a commercial center until the turn of the 20th century. An African-American M.E. Church is shown on the Sidney Atlas of 1850, the Hopkins Atlas of 1877, and the Bromley Atlas of 1915.(4)

The cemetery associated with the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church is located to the rear of the property. It is enclosed on three sides by natural growth of mature trees. It is sited on a level grassy lot with several shrubs interspersed throughout. Approximately 150 graves are marked and maintain a linear organization. It is believed more graves exist but are unmarked. Markers include rounded and squared upright stones and upright crosses, most of marble and limestone. The oldest graves are located in the north corner. The oldest marker appears to be 1877. A few of the names included in the cemetery are Underwood, Change, Jackson, Wright, Davis, and Mason. The most recent marker dates to 1962. Associated with the cemetery is the non-historic brick Union Bethel A.M.E. Church circa 1962 and a pre-fabricated shed.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

BA-2146

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Union Bethel A.M.E. Church Cemetery

other

### 2. Location

street and number 8502 Liberty Road not for publication

city, town Randallstown vicinity

county Baltimore County

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Church of Randallstown MD, Inc.

street and number 8615 Church Lane telephone Not Available

city, town Randallstown state MD zip code 21133

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 77, 1228

city, town Towson liber 9183 folio 240

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- ☐ Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 3 Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2146

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The cemetery associated with the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church is located to the rear of the property. It is enclosed on three sides by natural growth of mature trees. It is sited on a level grassy lot with several shrubs interspersed throughout. Approximately 150 graves are marked and maintain a linear organization. It is believed more graves exist but are unmarked. Markers include rounded and squared upright stones and upright crosses, most of marble and limestone. The oldest graves are located in the north corner. The oldest marker appears to be 1877. A few of the names included in the cemetery are Underwood, Change, Jackson, Wright, Davis, and Mason. The most recent marker dates to 1962.

The Union Bethel A.M.E. Church has a 1962 datestone and replaced an earlier Union Bethel Church. The current building is two stories and nine bays wide. It is of masonry construction in a brick stretcher bond and is capped with a cross-gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. Next to the church are two 1970s sheds both one-story and one bay wide. One is cinderblock construction with a side-gable roof clad with asphalt shingles. The second shed is prefabricated and clad with corrugated-sheet metal. It is capped with a gambrel roof clad with corrugated-sheet metal.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2146

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1877 to 1962

Architect/Builder unknown

Construction dates unknown

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Organized prior to 1880, the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church and Cemetery is located near Randallstown in the Second District in Baltimore County. Over the course of the early 19th century, the community of Randallstown grew from the crossroads community established by John and Christopher Randall in the first half of the 18th century. By 1850, Randallstown had developed into a small residential and commercial center. The town boasted roughly fifty residents, two stores, and a tavern in the small town. By the early 1800s, Soldiers Delight Road became known as Liberty Road, for it led to Libertytown in eastern Frederick County. The first half of the 19th century saw increased use of Liberty Road as settlements spread out in all directions from Baltimore.(1) Successful completion of the Baltimore and Liberty Turnpike in the mid-1860s resulted in a much faster trip to Baltimore from Randallstown and other towns to the west.(2) By the late 1870s, the once modest community of Randallstown grew to nearly twice its size of thirty years earlier. By 1877, the population had expanded to nearly 75 people. The services of a post office, school, three churches, and three stores enabled the residents to maintain a certain degree of self-sufficiency. The 1877 county atlas shows hints that the community was slated for further growth. In addition to the residential and commercial structures that were located along the turnpike, there were several houses accessed by unimproved roads. As the town continued to grow, these roads would most likely be slated for improvement as the town's population increased. In 1880, Randallstown had a population of 100. The population grew by an additional 50 people over the next year. By all accounts, the town was growing at a geometric rate. The 1915 county atlas indicates that the town's population had increased through the last twenty years of the 19th century and the first 15 of the 20th. However, the town only grew in its residential status. Randallstown did not, however, grow as a commercial center until the turn of the 20th century.(3) Randallstown is now a suburb of the City of Baltimore. A Colored M.E. Church is shown on the Sidney Atlas of 1850, the Hopkins Atlas of 1877, and the Bromley Atlas of 1915.(4)

### ENDNOTES

1. William Hollifield, *Difficulties Made Easy: History of the Turnpikes of Baltimore City and County* (Cockeysville, MD: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1978), p. 28.

2. Hollifield, p. 28.

3. *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland, 20-21*; see also Thomas J. Scharf, *History of the City and County of Baltimore from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men* (Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881), pp. 830-831.

4. J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850), and *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877), and *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G.W. Bromley, 1915).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2146

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.90 acres

Acreage of historical setting 0.90 acres

Quadrangle name Ellicott City

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Union Bethel A.M.E. Church cemetery, dating to 1877, is located at 8502 Liberty Road in Randallstown in the Second District in Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with tax map 77 parcel 1228.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title K. Baynard & J. Riggle, Architectural Historians

organization E.H.T. Tracerics

date 8/26/02

street and number 1121 Fifth Street NW

telephone 202/393-1199

city or town Washington

state DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Union Bethel A.M.E. Church Cemetery

Continuation Sheet

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Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.



MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

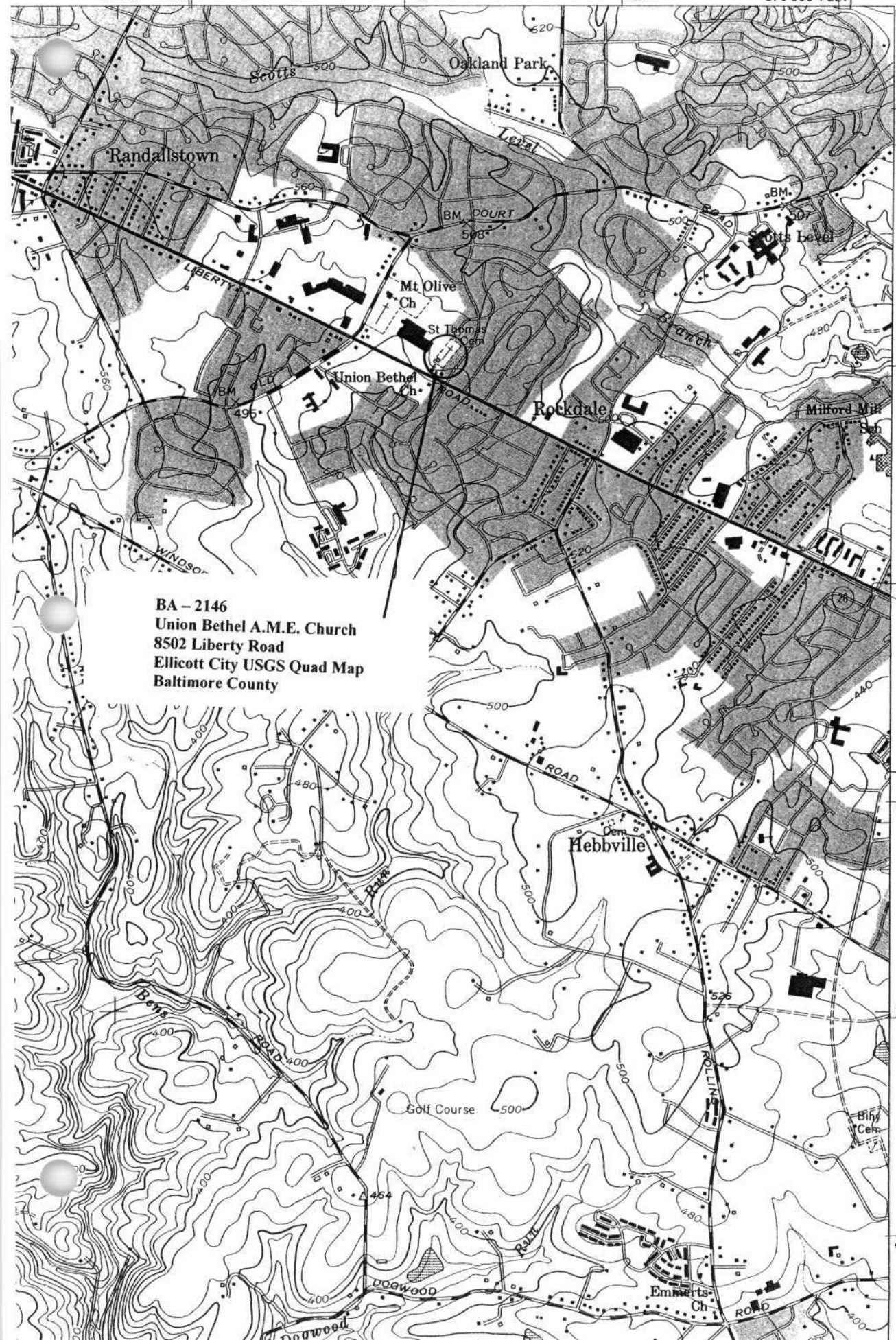
5662  
COCKEYS

47°30' 346 347 348 870 000 FEET 76°45' 39°22'30"

560 000  
FEET

MILFORD 0.6 MI.  
BALTIMORE (CIVIC CENTER) 9 MI.

BA - 2146  
Union Bethel A.M.E. Church  
8502 Liberty Road  
Ellicott City USGS Quad Map  
Baltimore County







BA-2146

UNION BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH CEMETERY

8502 LIBERTY ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

8/2002

CEMETERY, VIEW LOOKING NORTH

1 OF 1